



Enriching Our Native Way of Life

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**BBNC Education Foundation receives sizeable donation as Rio Tinto
withdraws from Pebble Project**

Bristol Bay Native Corporation Education Foundation Executive Director Greta Goto is releasing the following statement concerning today's announcement that Rio Tinto has elected to withdraw from the Pebble Project by donating its ownership stake in Northern Dynasty Minerals, to the BBNC Education Foundation and the Alaska Community Foundation:

"Rio Tinto's gift will benefit organizations that serve the people and communities of Alaska. The gift is expected to increase the BBNC Education Foundation's ability to meet its mission of supporting educational opportunities for BBNC Shareholders."

BBNC President & CEO Jason Metrokin further comments:

"Rio Tinto deserves credit for its willingness to reconsider its position in the Pebble Project. This gift provides an example of what open discussion and relationship building between stakeholders with differing views can accomplish. However, BBNC's opposition to the proposed Pebble mine has not changed."

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Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) is a responsible Alaska Native investment corporation dedicated to the mission of "Enriching Our Native Way of Life." Established through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA), BBNC works to ensure the continuation of the life and culture for over 9,500 shareholders – the Eskimo, Indian and Aleut Natives of Southwest Alaska's Bristol Bay region.

The BBNC Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3), organized in the State of Alaska. Its mission is to support and encourage BBNC Shareholders to pursue educational opportunities and to promote and preserve cultural heritage.